

### **Remarks**

Reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified patent application, as amended, are respectfully requested. The above-identified patent application is a reissue application of U.S. Patent No. 5,902,667. Claims 1, 3-6, and 13-20 are pending in this application upon entry of this Amendment. In this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claims 1 and 13; cancelled claims 2 and 14; and added new claims 18-20. Of the pending claims, claims 1, 6, 13, and 18 are the only independent claims.

The Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of its cancelled dependent claim 2. The Applicant has amended claim 13 to include the limitations of its cancelled dependent claim 14. The Applicant has added new independent claim 18 which includes the limitations of independent claim 1 and its dependent claim 3. The Applicant has added new claims 19-20 which depend from new independent claim 18. New claims 19-20 have the same limitations as claims 4-5 which depend from amended independent claim 1.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

In the final Office Action mailed December 8, 2004, the Examiner indicated that claim 6 is allowed. The Examiner also indicated that claims 2-3 and 14-15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of its dependent cancelled claim 2. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is in a condition for allowance. Claims 3-5 depend directly from amended independent claim 1 and include the limitations therein. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-5 are in a condition for allowance.

The Applicant has amended independent claim 13 to include the limitations of its dependent cancelled claim 14. Thus, amended independent claim 13 is in a condition for

allowance. Claims 15-17 depend directly from amended independent claim 13 and include the limitations therein. Accordingly, claims 13 and 15-17 are in a condition for allowance.

The Applicant has added new independent claim 18 which includes the limitations of independent claim 1 and its dependent claim 3. Thus, new independent claim 18 is in a condition for allowance. The Applicant has also added new claims 19-20 which depend from new independent claim 18. New claims 19-20 recite the limitations recited in claims 4-5 which depend directly from amended independent claim 1. Thus, new claims 18-20 are in a condition for allowance.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102**

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-5, 13, and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by either of U.S. Patent No. 4,367,110 issued to Yoshikama (citing FIG. 5) or U.S. Patent No. 4,396,448 issued to Ohta et al. (citing FIG. 7, press plate base 30 and coating 31). The Examiner indicated that the manner in which the impressions are applied is not dispositive on the issue of the patentability of the article claims 1, 4-5, 13, and 16-17.

The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and believes that the claims as presented prior to this Amendment are patentable over both Yoshikama and Ohta. However, in the interest of expediting allowance of this application, the Applicant has amended the claims as indicated above. As a result of these amendments, claims 1, 4-5, 13, and 16-17 are in a condition for allowance. Thus, the rejection to these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is now moot.

**CONCLUSION**

In summary, claims 1, 3-6, and 13-17, as amended, and new claims 18-20 meet the substantive requirements for patentability. The case is in appropriate condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested.

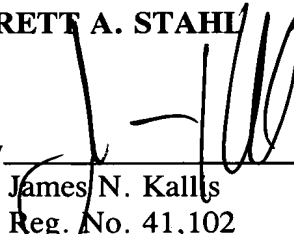
Reply to final Office Action mailed December 8, 2004

If a telephone or video conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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